



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of Interior

Alpine Hotshots - Rocky Mountain National Park Estes Park, CO  
Arrowhead Hotshots - Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks, CA

## National Park Service Fire Management

May 2004



### National Park Service Hotshots Participate in Firefighter Health and Safety Study

The Alpine and Arrowhead Interagency Hotshot Crews are participating in a study with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and the Department of Interior to examine work related exposures and lung disease in Type I wildland firefighters. Preseason health tests to measure lung function and airway inflammation of crew members were conducted during training in May.

NIOSH will also accompany each crew to a wildfire assignment, where daily measurements of air samples, personal carbon monoxide samples and lung function will be taken for the duration of the assignment. Particulate monitors will be set up on the fireline during initial attack and mop-up assignments and in base camp to measure air quality. Each crew member will wear a personal sampler device weighing approximately one pound, to measure the amount of carbon monoxide in their personal breathing zone. Post fire health testing will also be conducted at the conclusion of the fire assignment. The NIOSH team members will complete S-130/190 basic fire training, maintain a moderate fitness rating and be escorted by the crew while on the fireline.

Alpine based at Rocky Mountain and Arrowhead based at Sequoia & Kings Canyon are the only National Park Service sponsored Type I Interagency Hotshot Crews. The entire wildland fire management workforce will benefit from this important study to evaluate respiratory health risks.

